

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 19 and 23 have been amended to read as follows:

1. A non-dripping, flame retardant, fluoropolymeric composition comprising:
(a) a fluoropolymeric base polymer; and
(b) a nanoclay additive;
said composition having a limiting oxygen index of at least 45%.

19. A method for preparing an exfoliated thermoplastic elastomer blend of a fluoropolymer and a nanocomposite, said blend having a limiting oxygen index of at least 45%, comprising dynamically mixing said fluoropolymer and said nanocomposite in a ratio of from about 99:1 to about 50:50 parts by weight, respectively.

23. A non-dripping, flame retardant fluoropolymeric composition comprising:
(a) PVDF resin; and
(b) a nanoclay selected from the group consisting of synthetic silicate montmorillonites, natural layered silicate montmorillonites and a layered alumina-silicate;
said composition having a limiting oxygen index of at least 45%.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application.